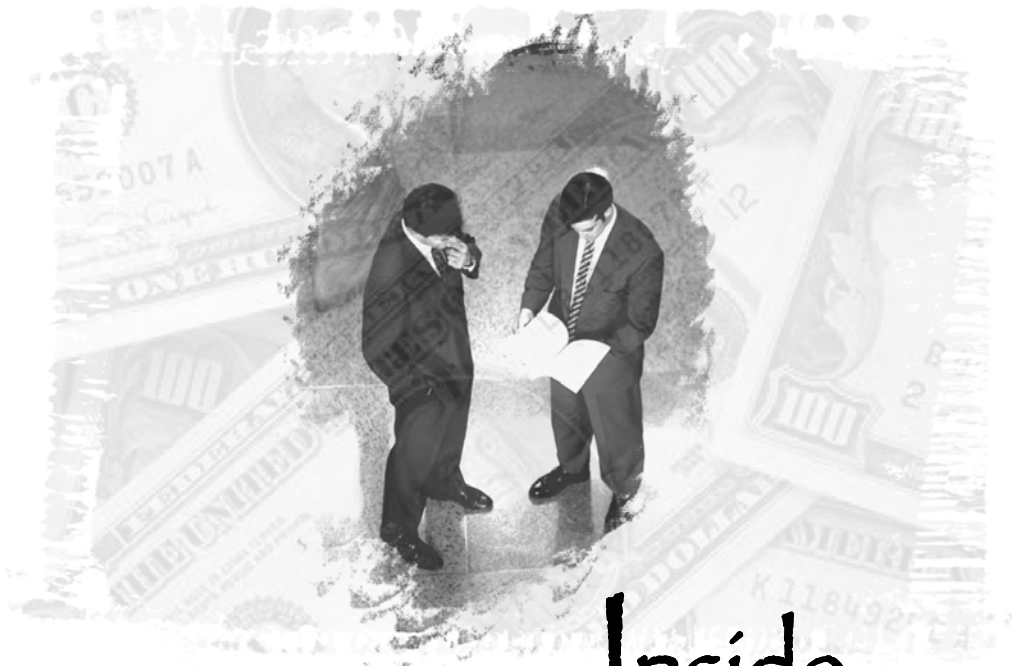


# Trend Lines

**Perspectives on Utah's Economy**

**May/June 2002**



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# TrendLines

is published by the Workforce Information Division of the Utah Department of Workforce Services.

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# Contributors



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Elena Falkenberg has worked for the Department of Workforce Services since 1996. She holds a degree in Education, a Bachelor's in Sociology from the University of Utah, and is presently pursuing a graduate degree in Educational Psychology. As an employee of DWS, Elena has worked extensively with training and curriculum development and presently is actively involved with the Employer Business Services unit as a State Program Specialist.

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Ken is the Senior Economist for the Department of Workforce Services. A graduate of Utah State University, he has worked as an economist for 36 years. He serves as the Department's advisor and spokesperson on statewide economic issues. Ken is a member of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors and the Utah Population Estimates Committee. He is past president of the Wasatch Front Economic Forum.



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## John T. Mathews

John is the Northern Regional Economist for the Department of Workforce Services where he has been employed as an economist for 27 years. His primary areas of responsibility include the preparation of Utah's occupational employment projections ("Utah Job Outlook"), and wage and career information. John conducts various research studies and provides labor market training. He has a B.S. and an M.S. in Economics from the U of U and has served as an Assistant Adjunct Professor of Economics at the U of U, and is an Economics Faculty at University of Phoenix.



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Lecia Langston is the Western Regional Economist for the Department of Workforce Services, and lives in St. George. Lecia has been an economist with the state for more than 20 years. During that time, she was Chief Economist for the Department of Employment Security for six years, has served as a president of the Wasatch Front Economic Forum, has staffed Governor Bangerter's Workforce 2000 Committee, and is a past advisor of the Governor's Economic Coordinating Committee. She is the author of several studies including *Hard at Work: Women in the Utah Labor Force*.

## James A. Robson

James A. Robson is a Senior Data Analyst for the Department of Workforce Services. He oversees the Occupational Employment Statistics survey conducted jointly by DWS and by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. James worked for the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget analyzing Utah and at Utah Foundation. Mr. Robson has worked for and participated with the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, the Utah Population Estimates Committee, and is past president of the Wasatch Front Economic Forum. James has a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the University of Utah.



## Austin R. Sargent

Austin has been a regional economist with the Department of Workforce Services for four years. Prior to that he was a research economist for fourteen years at the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Utah. He is currently an associate member of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors. He is a graduate of the University of Utah with a Masters in Public Administration and a Bachelor's Degree in political science.

## Tom Williams

Tom Williams is a Senior Economist with the Utah State Tax Commission, where he has worked for over fifteen years. He specializes in questions concerning the personal income tax and the corporation franchise tax. Tom prepares statistical reports, revenue forecasts, and fiscal analysis of legislation. Occasionally he produces a study on household tax burdens. Tom was educated (ABD) at the University of Chicago. He has also been employed by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and by the Central Intelligence Agency. In addition, he served as a research associate at the Brookings Institution for over a year.

# A Letter to Our Readers

**Dear Readers:**

It's spring again, and many young people are preparing to find temporary summer jobs or graduating from school and beginning careers. This year they are entering a lackluster labor market. Utah's unemployment rate is quite a bit higher than in the past few years, and the job growth rate is much lower (or nonexistent in some industries!). This means it probably will be more difficult to find jobs than it has been during the recent past. This could be a rude awakening to some who have seen recent graduates easily find good-paying jobs.

This issue of *TrendLines* offers articles explaining how the current economic situation may impact new workers and information that will help them gain a better understanding of the labor market they will encounter. Many people planning to enter the job market are not aware of the information available to them, or they don't understand how to use it effectively. If you are a parent, a counselor, or a business person who has the opportunity to share this information with those entering the labor market, we encourage you to assist us in spreading the word about our useful products and services.

The Workforce Information Division has a great deal of information to help people with career exploration and planning. Check out our Web site at <http://wi.dws.state.ut.us/occi.asp>. Also keep in mind that the mission of the Department of Workforce Services is to match job seekers with employers, so you can find valuable information about current job openings on the DWS Web site at <http://jobs.utah.gov>.

Sincerely,



Kimberley Bartel

## How does your pay stack up?

**The newest wage data for Utah is now available FREE! See the entry-level, average, median and middle-range wage figures for over 300 occupations in Utah, and in nine sub-state areas in Utah Occupational Wages, 2002.**

**Call 801 526-9786 to receive a copy or just click on <http://wi.dws.state.ut.us/pubs/UOW/wagepub.asp>**



# Tooele



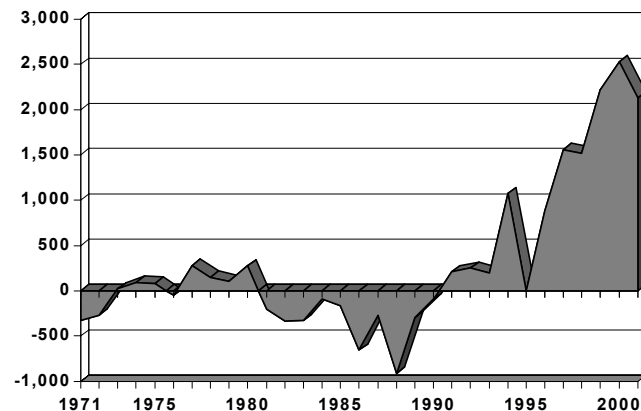
## County Highlight

**by Mark Knold**

Wake up Tooele County! The urban sprawl is coming your way. Previously unaffected by Salt Lake's proximity, and more influenced by the Army's decisions involving two military bases, an urban overflow from Salt Lake County began its impact in the late 1990s. This overflow is the initial step in the "discovery" of Tooele County, one of the next prime expansion targets to accommodate Utah's ever-growing population. This initial activity has been only population growth, but the next decade should see more industrial and commercial activity as well.

The County's population is centered within the Tooele and Rush Valley corridor. Tooele City is the county seat and largest city. Combine this with Grantsville, Stockton, and the Lake Pointe/Erda areas, and you have the arena for the County's growth. Much of the County's western section is under the U.S Department of Defense's control and not open for development. A major factor governing the pace of future economic growth will be the development of more transportation arteries into the Tooele Valley.

### **Tooele County Population Net-Migration Pattern**



**For more information about Tooele County, check out:**  
<http://wi.state.ut.us>. Click on "State, County and Local Information"

- X Tooele County's 2000 Census population numbered 40,735. Tooele City tallied 22,502, and Grantsville 6,015.**
- X The U.S. Department of Defense, operating Tooele Army Depot and Dugway Proving Grounds, is the County's largest employer.**
- X The County's vast uninhabited lands host several hazardous waste disposal companies that employs over a thousand workers.**
- X The Oquirrh Mountains, which rise over 4,000 feet above the valley floor, effectively separate Tooele Valley from the Salt Lake metropolitan sprawl. Though close to Salt Lake (20 miles), Tooele enjoys a feeling of isolation.**
- X The southwestern shore of the Great Salt Lake hosts several manufacturing firms that extract salt and magnesium from the lake's high mineral content.**

# State & Metro

## Highlights

By Kenneth E. Jensen

### A Rare Downturn

The State of Utah is experiencing its slowest economic growth in the past 20 years. Since November 2001, Utah's monthly nonagricultural employment totals are actually lower than the year before. At the same time, Utah's unemployment rate, 5.3 percent in February 2002, has jumped by 1.5 percentage points in 12 months and is higher than at any time in the past 10 years.

### Past History

Historically, most national recessions have had little impact on the Utah economy. But this time Utah is not immune. Utah's primary economic indicators are reflecting labor market conditions very similar to those of the U.S.

Many analysts are already declaring, based on recent indicators, the end of the U.S. recession. This outcome should also give the Beehive State the boost it needs to

recover this year. But local analysts caution that Utah's recovery may lag that of the nation.

### The Metro Scene

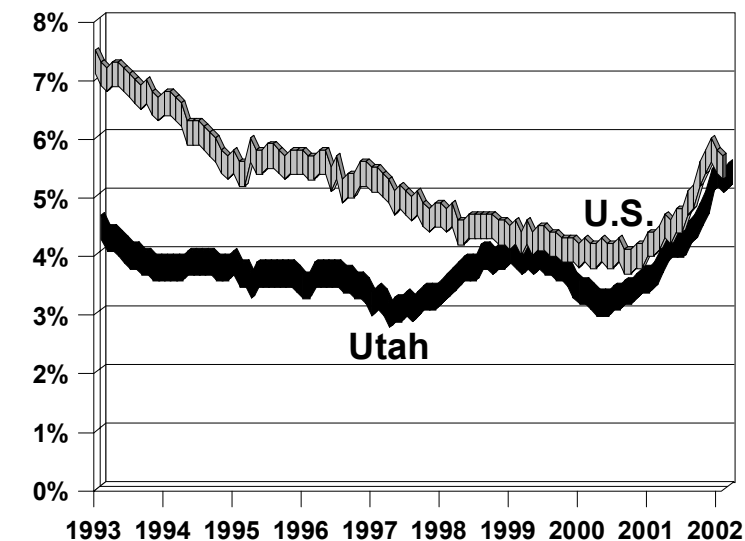
Utah's metropolitan areas have shared fully in this downturn. The unemployment rates of both the Salt Lake-Ogden and Provo-Orem areas jumped by over a percentage point from 2000

to 2001 and are currently equal to or slightly higher than the state rate. Moreover, job cuts have sharply impacted both areas.

### The Fortunate Timing of the Olympic Winter Games

For years Utah eagerly anticipated the economic impact of 2002 Olympic

### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services



Winter Games. As it turned out, the Games occurred when northern Utah was in the lowest part of its economic downturn. The timing of this psychological and economic stimulus couldn't have been better. It is too soon after the Games to measure their economic impact, but we know that thousands of temporary jobs have supplemented the incomes of Utahns who needed the lift.

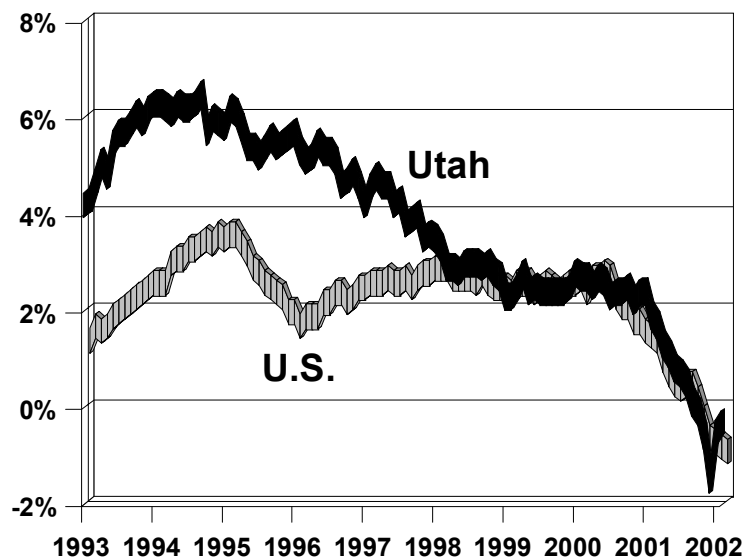
### **Serving the Games**

The services division saw most of the temporary employment associated with the Olympic Games. Entertainment/recreational, business (security), and lodging services all experienced employment jumps in January and February resulting in a year-over net growth of 5,700 jobs for February compared to December's net loss of 4,600 jobs.

Olympics-related employment gains also benefited the trade division (wholesale plus retail). Its year-over loss of 1,200 jobs (0.5 percent) is a big improvement over the December-to-December loss of 6,900 jobs. Air transportation and communications saw modest job gains for a few weeks.

Despite the temporary boost from the Olympics, Utah's economic indicators for March and April will probably reflect a continuation of the slow-down.

## **Year-Over Nonfarm Job Growth**



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

**For more information about Utah's economy, check out:**  
<http://wi.dws.state.ut.us>

## **Better resources. Better employees.**



They've agreed to use the Utah Department of Workforce Services to meet their business needs. Why? Because DWS offers a variety of services that will give their business the winning edge: labor market information, job fairs, supervisor training, access to state and national job-seeker databases, layoff consultation, and more.

**Call 1-888-920-WORK  
or visit our website at [jobs.utah.gov](http://jobs.utah.gov)**

# National News

## Show Me the Money!

**by Mark Knold**

How does your pay stack up? How do Utah's wages compare to the nation's, or other states'? Most people are very interested in wage information and comparisons. Utah has a history of lower-than-average wages as a whole. Since 1989, Utah's average has been less than 86 percent of the U.S. average. For the year 2000, Utah's \$29,229 is only 83 percent of the national average of \$35,296. What factors are pulling this wage ranking down? Is it strictly lower wages, or are there other factors involved?

### **What's Happening?**

It turns out it's a combination of both. First, let's understand the average. States are given a weight equal to total nonagricultural employment. Therefore, it takes about 16 western states to equal the weight, or influence on the national average, of California alone.

What you end up with is a list with only 13 states above the national average (including the District of Columbia), and 38 below. So Utah, being below the average, has ample company. Utah ranks 33<sup>rd</sup>, meaning that it sits near the top of the bottom third.

### **Other Stuff**

Part-time employment is not factored out of the wage calculation, meaning that a higher-than-average amount of part-time employment will bring a state's ranking down. Utah is one of these states, since we have much higher-than-average part-time employment for both men and women.

A major contributor here is that Utah has a higher-than-average participation rate of 16-19 year olds in the workforce and this group has more part-time employment than the general population.

These and other subtle statistical influences are some of the reasons Utah wages come in lower than many of our western neighbors. How much lower varies among occupations. Those that require a college degree or other post-secondary training are impacted most. As a whole, young educated workers are some of the most mobile in our society, so a person receiving post-secondary education in Utah can easily be courted by any number of other cities or states across the country. In these professional/management/computer-related occupations (some of the higher-paying in our society), Utah's lower wage offerings can foster a noticeable amount of brain-power drain.

### Quality of Life

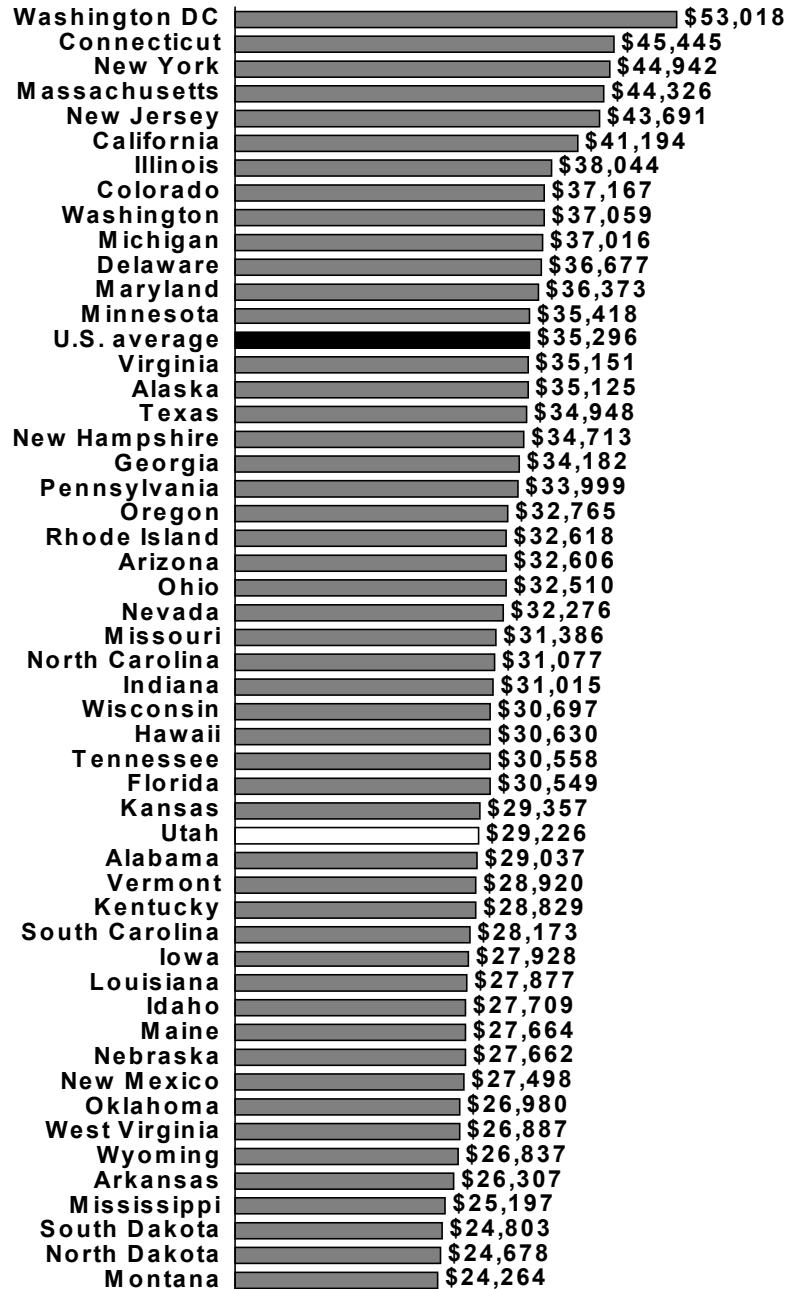
Employers in Utah have the advantage of quality-of-life benefits here that can counter this influence, which generally works in Utah's favor. The amount people are paid for their work generally comes down to the same old basic economic principles of supply and demand.

Wage information, by occupation, for all states and the nation can be found at the Bureau of Labor Statistics

Web site at:

<http://stats.bls.gov/oes/1998/oessrcst.htm>

## 2000 Average Annual Wage



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



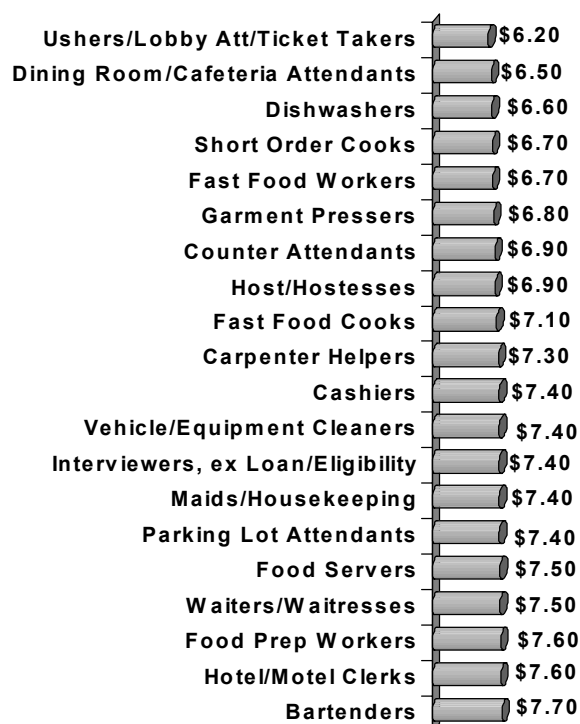
# Wage\$: the High and the Low



## New Data Available

### ***2001 Utah Occupations with the Lowest Average Hourly Wage***

**By Austin Sargent**



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, *Utah Occupational Wages*, April 2002

### **Education Pays**

The most recent data about Utah occupational wages reinforces the old adage "education pays". The labor market continues to pay premium wages for high-level marketable skills. While individuals with exceptional abilities may take alternative paths to career development, most people will find the door of opportunity opens through education, or specialized training.

Post-high school training continues to increase in importance as the main vehicle for the development of marketable skills demanded by businesses. Not only is it important to get an "education," but to ensure that the training provides

them with marketable skills. Another point to remember is that increasingly the new high-paying jobs require high levels of technical skill and ability. This also underscores the need for post-high school education or training.

### Market Demand

Hourly wages in Utah vary widely and are dependent on market demand and the level of skill and training required. The 20 highest-paying occupations in Utah generally

require graduation from college with at least a Bachelor's degree. In many cases, additional training, certification, or professional licensing is also necessary. Besides formal training, some high-paying occupations also require management responsibilities.

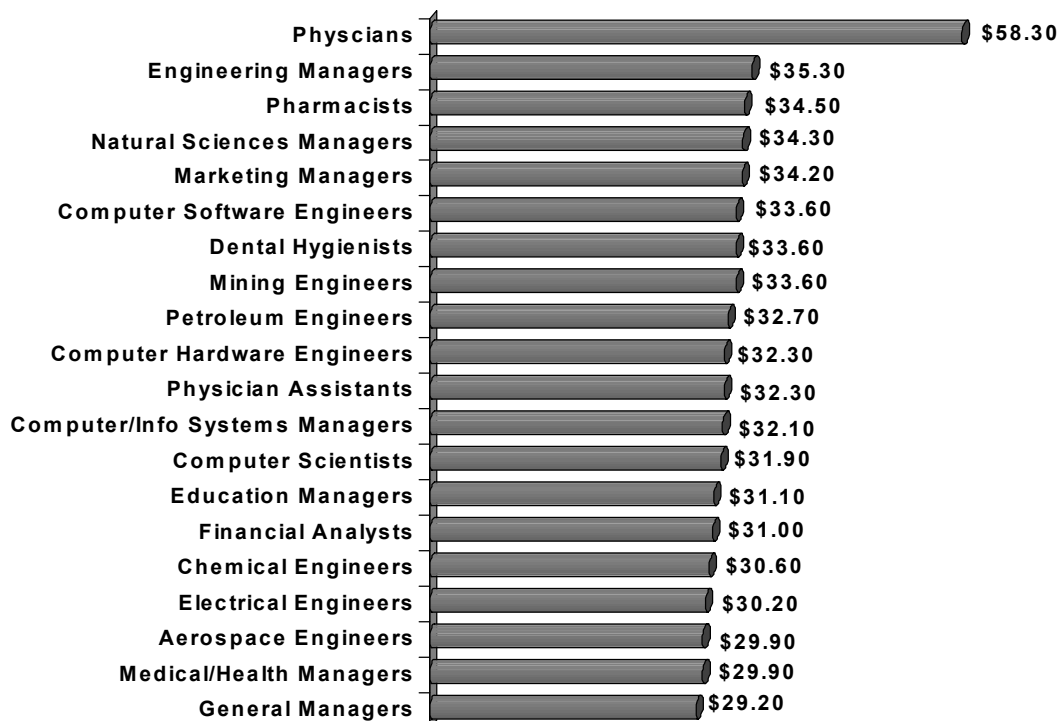
Most high-paying jobs are in management, business operations, financial, engineering, computers, and other professional and technical occupations.

### Lower Training/Lower Wages

While occupations paying the highest wages reflect the need for more advanced training, the lowest-paying only require minimal formal education or training. The majority of these are concentrated in food preparation and service, retail sales, clerical, cleaning, and personal services.

For recently released Utah wage data, see our website at:  
<http://wi.dws.state.ut.us/Owi/wages.asp>

### 2001 Utah Occupations with the Highest Average Hourly Wage



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, *Utah Occupational Wages*, April 2002

# So, you're graduating from college. . .



## Outlook For College Grads

by John T. Matthews

Graduates from colleges and universities will face a highly competitive job market this year. Because of the national recession, employers are curtailing their recruiting activities. Job opportunities that do occur will be sought after by many applicants.

With a slumping economy—unemployment up and job creation down—firms are reacting cautiously. Overall, companies are cutting back their hiring, waiting for the economic pendulum to swing out of the bottom of the business cycle. Recruiting may be off as much as 20 to 30 percent in Utah (see accompanying article from college placement directors in Utah colleges). This does not, however, say that no jobs will be available. Opportunities will exist, but more for some fields of study than others.

### Major Majors

Hard sciences and business seem to be fairly secure fields of study in any market. Engineering (mechanical, electrical, computer) remains in demand. Management, accounting, and finance also continue to be popular. Beyond these, fewer job opportunities are expected this year. Because activity at campus placement centers is off, the ratio of graduates to job offers will jump, leaving a teeming battlefield of job seekers for available openings.

### \$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Salary offers look similar to last year's, but are missing incentives like signing bonuses and other perks. In Utah, some of the major majors may see small increases in salary offers. A note about salary offers—you only hear about the few outrageously high salary

offers; no one says much about the lower, “real” levels most of your fellow grads will be taking.

### Who’s Recruiting, and Who’s Not?

The industries most heavily affected by the economic doldrums are limiting their recruiting —namely manufacturing, construction, and transportation. The industry sector that has been reported as increasing its visits to higher education is government, primarily the federal government, as budgets grow for jobs in the public sector.

### What’s a Graduate to Do?

Finding a job is a job. Do the legwork focusing on the kinds of companies that employ your major. Use the placement center of your soon-to-be alma mater to find out which companies are coming to town. Remember, some companies may not physically visit the college but recruit electronically through the school.

Use every contact you know to identify firms that are, or will be, hiring soon. This means using your contacts with employees currently working for companies of interest. Seek referrals through college mentors. Certainly, get on the Internet and explore opportunities listed with individual companies or through larger recruiting sites. One more sure-fire leg up in the job-hunting process is to go into a job interview with some job-related experience on your application. Employers seek educational attainment but the tie-breaker will be experience. This can come from part-time work, volunteer work, work-study, internship, or any way you can get some real-world on-the-job experience.

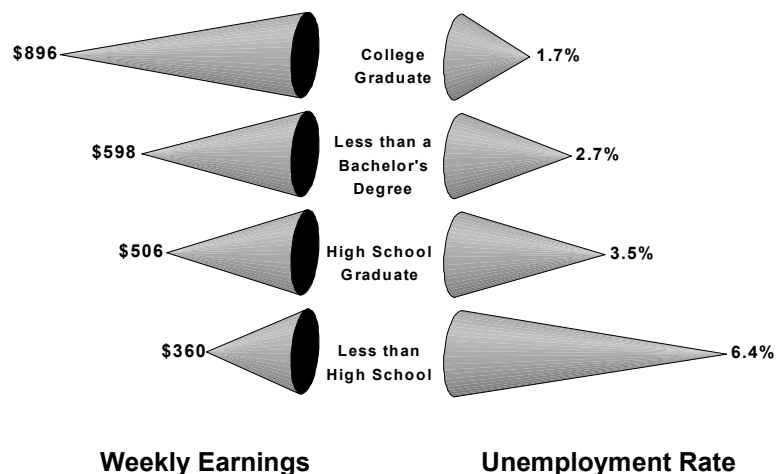
### Where to Go

You must be mobile — to accept work where the work is. In an “employer’s job market,” you may not be able to start at the great salary you wanted, or in your prime location. You may have to accept something less to get started in your career. Also, remember that not all job opportunities are equally distributed across the USA. For example, the majority of jobs in corporate business and finance is concentrated on the coasts, but primarily in the east. Most engineering and construction activity is in major metropolitan areas. Art, advertising, and design businesses are also concentrated on the coasts, as is international trade.

### Now and Beyond 2002

Remember, the economy is in the bottom of a business cycle. It’s not the first recession you will see, nor the last. The economy doesn’t run on a smooth and steady track. It’s more like a roller coaster over time. There is some economic security in a good education. In general, the more you learn, the more you earn, and the more you learn the less unemployment you will experience (see the chart).

## 2000 Earnings and Unemployment of Persons 25 and Over



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

# College Outlook Q&A

*What are College Placement Directors saying about the job prospects of college graduates this spring? In March, questions were posed to Utah colleges and universities about this year's recruiting environment. Here is what we found out.*



***Do you anticipate salary offers to graduates will be much different from those of last year?***

The consensus is “not much different from last year.” Some of the comments from the schools included: “(salaries).. not different for Bachelor’s graduates, but much less for MBA’s;” “comparable or slightly less, with the disappearance of signing bonuses;” and “wages won’t go down but competition will be fierce.”



***Are you surprised by which companies are coming (or not coming) to campus?***

Again, the answers are cautious, citing employer comments that they are not actively recruiting right now but want to be invited to campus next year. At a couple of schools only the Federal Government is actively recruiting.



***How do you think this spring's recruiting activity by employers will compare with last year?***

Virtually all the respondents report that recruiting activity would be “off” this spring, some by as much as 30 percent. The decline reflects that businesses are reacting to an economy in the bottom of a business cycle.



***In your opinion, what are the top three fields of study that will be in demand four years from now?***

Surprisingly, the number one and two picks for current recruitment aren’t on the list of future demand majors. The top three mentioned fields of study four years from now are computer science, education, and engineering. Nursing is not mentioned.



***Which three majors are recruiters most interested in?***

Business-related majors (business and accounting) are listed more than any other. Engineering is next, followed by nursing, computer science, and education (teaching).

***Acknowledgment: the Department of Workforce Services wishes to thank the following institutions for their participation, Brigham Young University, Salt Lake Community College, University of Utah, Utah State University, Utah Valley State College, and Westminster College.***



# Who's **The Guest Room** in the Money?

**From an article by Tom Williams,  
Utah State Tax Commission**

Utah's 2000 median household adjusted gross income (AGI) measures \$36,800. Eight counties have incomes above the state median; the highest is Morgan County at \$48,000. Piute County's \$21,900 is the lowest county median. Incomes are highest in Utah's northern counties and progress downward as one goes south and east (see map).

There are various ways to measure income, which is evidenced by differing measurements employed by selected government agencies. The Utah State Tax Commission, whose data is cited above, uses an adjusted gross income measure. It is closely allied to most people's perception of income, which consists of wages and salaries, the proceeds from investments (real capital gains) income properties, and pension payments. The sum

of these is gross income. Tax laws permit "adjustments" to reduce this total, leaving adjusted gross income.<sup>1</sup> It is this adjusted gross income that is taxed. AGI data comes primarily from federal individual income tax returns.

The Tax Commission makes an effort to report AGI on a household basis. That is, it attempts to add all returns filed from within the same household. This is done by having a computer search for, and statistically combine, returns that share the first part of an address, zip code, and last name. Obviously, this is not a perfect methodology, but it affords tabulations of household income that can be statistically useful.

The strength of the Tax Commission data is that it is the only source of county and city income measurements in Utah. It's not without limitations, though, as non-wage

incomes can be under-reported, and many low-income individuals are not required to file a tax return. But this data does offer a good comparison of household income distributions across the state in a single year. In addition, year-to-year comparisons are permissible in the absence of tax law changes that altered the definition of AGI.

**Editor's note:** *The U.S. Bureau of the Census also publishes yearly estimates of Utah's median household income. These are based on a relatively small household sample survey. For 2000, the figure is \$45,230. No sub-state estimates are available.*

<sup>1</sup> *These include IRA contributions, a portion of Social Security receipts, self-employment taxes, alimony, and others — resulting in what you report at the bottom of page 1 of your Schedule 1040 tax form.*

**To see the complete article:** [wi.dws.state.ut.us/pubs/catch/income.pdf](http://wi.dws.state.ut.us/pubs/catch/income.pdf)

# The Other Utah

## Nonurban Focus

by Lecia Parks Langston

### The Other Wage and the Other Utah

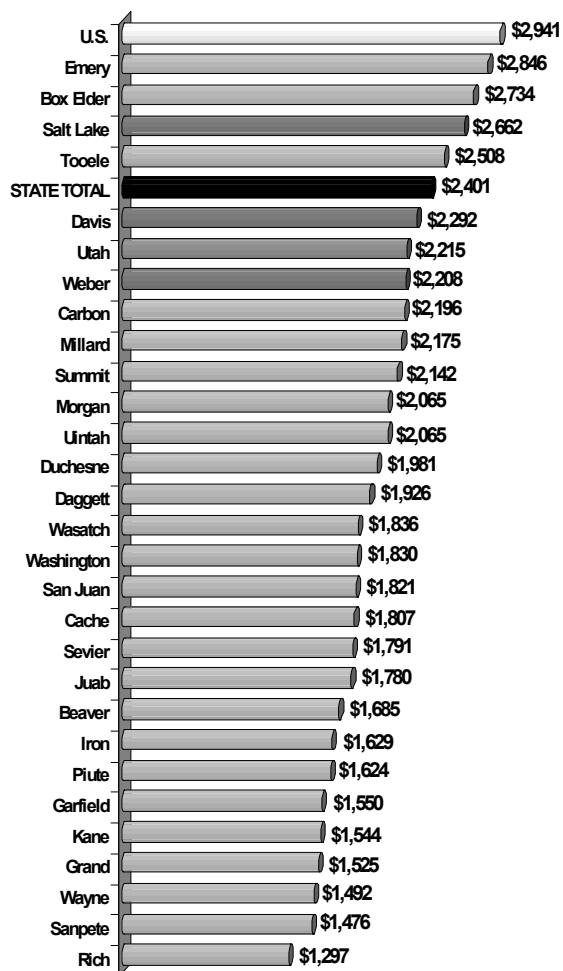
You've probably seen the very interesting occupational wage information in this issue. This data is collected via a massive survey of Utah employers. But, wait! There's more wage data out there. As a result of managing the unemployment insurance program, the Department of Workforce Services receives employment and wage information from the vast majority of Utah's employers. Collected information does not include the self-employed and many agricultural employers.

#### The problem is. . .

As with most data, this set does have its limitations. Wages are reported by employee for an entire quarter (no hourly wages). And, we can't tell which employees are "full-time" and which jobs are "part-time." Also, there isn't a way to attach occupations to this wage data.

Basically, we just add all the wages paid in a quarter and divide that number by the number of jobs to get an average wage. Despite its limitations, this average monthly wage provides an interesting indicator of the economic well-being of an area's workers. In many low-wage areas, workers must find two jobs to make ends meet. Some counties may have low average wages because of a high

### 2000 Average Monthly Wage



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

concentration of part-time service or trade employment. Other counties may show high wages due to only a few large, higher-paying employers.

### **Urban versus Nonurban**

So how does the average wage issue play out for Utah's urban and nonurban counties? You might suspect that, in general, urban areas pay higher wages than nonurban areas. In this case, intuition and statistics generally coincide. As you can see from the graph of 2000 average monthly wages, the "metro counties" are all clustered near the top of the ranking. The farthest down is Weber County at number seven. You might also notice that no county in Utah has a higher average wage than the United States.

### **Wait a minute. . .**

Yet, the top two counties on the average wage list aren't metro counties at all. Emery and Box Elder counties rank as number one and two in the average wage comparison. Why are they the exceptions to the rule? Emery County's employment is heavily dominated by the high-paying mining and utilities industries. This doesn't mean that Emery County is a worker's paradise, however. Mining employment has been declining in large part because of increases in productivity. At best, the county has stagnated over the past several years. Box Elder County is home to several dominant and higher-paying manufacturing firms, but several of these companies lost employment last year.

### **At the bottom. . .**

Counties at the bottom of the ranking are some of Utah's smallest and most rural counties. While some of these areas have seen strong employment gains in recent years, many jobs are part-time and related to tourism. Also, note the effect of local colleges. Counties where out-of-town college students make up a substantial share of the labor force, such as Washington, Cache, and Iron also tend to have lower wages thanks to the influx of cheap college-student labor and their associated part-time jobs.



- X** The Cedar City Council has approved an incentive deal with Integrated Process Systems. The company is considering building in the city's industrial park and bringing 25 to 50 jobs to the community.
- X** The Delta Egg Farm accounted for almost all of the 64-percent increase in Utah egg production between 1999 and 2001. About 80 jobs have been created since the farm opened.
- X** Ground-breaking has been held for the Gunnison Valley Hospital expansion in Sanpete County. The expansion will result in a 70-percent increase in the hospital's size.
- X** Nevco Energy LLC has purchased more than 13 acres of land near Sigurd in Sevier County and has the option for another 1,400 as the site for a proposed coal and gas fired power plant.
- X** The United Park City Mines Company presented plans to the Wasatch County Commission for a luxury mountain resort in the Bonanza Flats area.

*For more information about Utah's nonurban counties, check out:*  
<http://wi.dws.state.ut.us> then click on "State, County and Local Information"

# getting that SUMMER job



by James A. Robson

***How does a  
young person  
find summer  
employment?***

## **Time to Search**

Summer is fast approaching. It is time for teenagers and young adults to plan for summer employment. For many 15-to-24-year-olds this may be the first time they have tried to get a job, in which case, this may seem to be a daunting task. Even those students who currently have a job may want to look for something different to further their work experience, or just as a change of pace.

## **Jobs Are Out There**

The job market constantly changes. Over the past year or so there have been significant job losses nationally and in Utah. The economy has passed through what appears to have been, overall, a mild recession. Large unexpected and expected impacts have been felt, whether from the horrible terrorist attacks in New York and Washington or the fantastic Utah experience with the Olympic Winter Games.

The Utah unemployment rate of about 5.3 percent and close to zero year-over growth in jobs might discourage some young job seekers. Even if these conditions persist, there will be significant seasonal hiring in recreation and

tourism, and at stores and restaurants. As students finish the school year many businesses plan on hiring these newly available workers.

### **Why Work My Summer Away?**

Work is important to meet our financial goals—spending money for clothes, movies, transportation or large expenditures for college, a car, or vacation. While often difficult to comprehend as young adults, financial planners stress the importance of learning to save for the future—whether for education, a major purchase, an emergency cushion, or for retirement. Money managers remind us all of the benefits of learning to save.

Even if you don't need the money, summer job experience will help you gain the background needed for college admissions, other types of training, and selection of a career. Pay is often not the most important consideration. Valuable experience can also be obtained through volunteer work or internships. Lessons learned will set you up in important ways for your long-term career goals.

### **A Lifetime of Work**

Every job you have is important—particularly your first job. No matter what type of employment you have, your first job will begin your employment history, provide experience with basic job skills, and give you the chance to observe and learn from the boss and other co-workers.

Our first summer job experiences help us learn about the world of work and how we might fit in. These jobs can help answer important questions. What kinds of employment do I enjoy? What are some of the skills I want to develop for the future? Are my educational and training goals in line with my career goals?

Teenagers and young adults have the chance to experiment and explore as they seek and obtain work experience during their summers. Temporary full-time or part-time summer employment allows you to try different types of work—jobs that are relatively easy or difficult, mentally or physically challenging, fun—or not.

### **Getting Started**

First-time job seekers can be intimidated when contemplating their job search. A few pointers and readily-available resources can help you begin a search and conclude it successfully.

Begin by letting all those around you know you want a job. Announce your intentions to your family, friends, neighbors and other acquaintances. This is called **networking** and can be one of the best ways to get a line on a job. More often than not, job openings are not advertized extensively. People find many opportunities by

“word of mouth.” In many cases employers prefer to hire a new worker based upon the recommendations of someone they trust.

Next, visit some businesses close to your home. If they accept applications, fill them out. There is, of course, no place more convenient to work than in your own neighborhood.

### **Isn't the Internet Great?**

Now get on the Internet. There are vast free resources on the Web to help job seekers. If you don't have Internet access at home, then go to your school guidance counselor, your local library, or to one of Workforce Services' many Employment Centers. You can also log onto the DWS Web site, <http://jobs.utah.gov/>.

### **Finding the Perfect Job**

The DWS Internet site has thousands of job listings, career guides, information on job fairs, guidance on assessing your skills and interests, and **links to many other job-search resources on the Web**. Although you can “visit” DWS using only the Internet, a personal visit to an Employment Center is worthwhile. Besides using their computers to access on-line information, the Employment Centers have other computer-based training and tools for your job search. Employment counselors can answer your questions and assist you.

When you go to a business to apply for work, remember to conduct yourself in a mature, intelligent, and responsible manner. This includes dressing appropriately. When you work for someone you will represent them to their customers, by direct contact, or indirectly by the work you do. Dress, act, and speak in ways that help you feel positive and confident.

### **The Interview**

Employers may not expect you to bring much work experience and education to an entry-level job, but they are looking for workers who are organized, smart, flexible, and trainable. Show up for scheduled interviews ten minutes early. Review interviewing tips because interviewing skills are some of the most important abilities you can acquire for a successful job search.

### **Just Do It**

The personal rewards of summer jobs, while not necessarily lucrative, can provide you with interesting and even fun experiences that will serve you well throughout your life. You can enjoy the process of looking for a job. Your interactions with people in your “network” of acquaintances, with job search resources and counselors, and with employers can focus your energy toward a summer work experience that will meet your personal goals. With persistence, follow-through, and a positive attitude, you will be successful in your search.

# From the Department of Workforce Services



## Free Access and Resources for Everyone

by Elena Falkenberg

In an effort to fulfill our commitment "To provide *quality, accessible, and comprehensive* employment-related and support services..." The Department of Workforce Services (DWS) has created within each DWS Employment Center, a "Job Connection Area."

Job Connection Areas provide free customer access to a variety of business, employment and career-related information available via the Internet.

We have customized our resources to allow easy access to the Internet for job searches, use of the Electronic Job Board, and a variety of self-guided software:

### **\*America's Job Bank–**

One of the biggest and busiest job markets in cyberspace. Job seekers can post their resumes where thousands of employers search every day, and search for job openings quickly and effectively. Employers can also post job listings in the nation's largest on-line labor exchange, create customized job orders, and search resumes automatically to find the right people fast.

**\*Choices–**This self-guided career assessment software is designed to assist individuals in identifying appropriate career choices based on interests, transferable skills, and occupational information. Choices also has information on scholarships and financial aid, and links to colleges and training resources.

### **\*WinWay Resume –**

Creating a winning resume and preparing for a job-winning interview has never been easier. This resume maker offers lots of resume samples, cover letters and allows for practice with interactive interviewing techniques.

Job Connection Areas also offer labor market information, business resources and programs, tips for finding the right job and creating successful resumes, skills testing, informational videos, and job search workshops.

By supporting a variety of job search and career-related needs in today's changing economy, we strive to be **Utah's Job Connection.**

To find your nearest employment center visit our homepage at:  
[jobs.utah.gov](http://jobs.utah.gov)

# Quick Facts

## March 2002 Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Beaver	5.2%
Box Elder	7.5%
Cache	4.4%
Carbon	6.4%
Daggett	4.2%
Davis	4.8%
Duchesne	7.6%
Emery	9.7%
Garfield	15.0%
Grand	8.5%
Iron	5.4%
Juab	8.4%
Kane	5.0%
Millard	5.9%
Morgan	5.0%
Piute	7.6%
Rich	5.0%
Salt Lake	6.0%
San Juan	8.7%
Sanpete	9.1%
Sevier	6.2%
Summit	8.4%
Tooele	9.6%
Uintah	6.6%
Utah	6.2%
Wasatch	8.4%
Washington	4.1%
Wayne	6.0%
Weber	6.6%
Salt Lake- Ogden MSA	5.9%

Source: Utah Dept of Workforce Svcs.

## Just the Facts...

### Change From Last Year

#### March 2002

Utah Unemployment Rate	5.9%	↑	1.4 points
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.7%	↑	1.4 points
Utah Nonfarm Jobs (000s)	1,064.0	↓	-1.4%
U.S. Nonfarm Jobs (000s)	130,431.0	↓	-1.0%

#### February 2002

U.S. Consumer Price Index	177.8	↑	1.1%
U.S. Producer Price Index	128.6	↓	-5.8%

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

## TrendLine

Socioeconomic data from the 2000 Census will be released for Utah in early June 2002.

To access this information, go to [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

## In Our Next Issue:

**Tourism's Contribution to the Utah Economy**

**How Do We Count Tourism Data?**

**What Counties Depend on Tourism?**

**Grand County Focus**



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**All our publications are available in their entirety on our website:**

**<http://wi.state.ut.us>**

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***The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to provide quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment-related and supportive services responsive to the needs of employers, job seekers, and the community.***

**Utah!**

*Where ideas connect™*



**Equal Opportunity Employment Program**

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (801) 526-9240.

Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay at

1-800-346-4128



**DWS-03-44-0502**